

from schools; millions of dollars to buy masks and protective equipment for teachers, staff, and students; and millions of rapid, accurate COVID tests so everyone can get tested and stay safe.

We are also investing billions to improve air quality in schools across America.

The impact of these investments cannot be overstated. We all know how dangerous lead contamination is for our kids. Lead poisoning can cause developmental problems, mental and physical health issues, and even death. No child should be poisoned by their own school water fountain—not in Texas, not in America, not anywhere. That is why this law is investing \$2.9 billion to replace lead pipes in Texas schools and make sure our children have clean, safe drinking water.

It is for those same reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we are also putting tax dollars to work for cleaner air in schools. Poor air quality hurts students every day, making it harder to learn and contributing to illnesses like asthma.

Recently, poor air circulation and filters have been driving up COVID-19 cases in schools. We can keep our kids safe in their schools by installing better filters that clean out the COVID virus before it travels between classrooms; we can keep our kids safe by providing them and their teachers with masks to help stop the spread; and we can keep our kids safe by making sure that if anyone does feel sick, they can immediately get a free COVID test.

There are over 193,000 schoolchildren in my district. I am proud that the investments we are making will help each and every one of them. These are important measures we are taking right now to make schools safe and a great place to learn and grow for our students, for the teachers, the bus drivers, the cafeteria workers, and all those that keep our schools open and safe.

Houston ISD alone has over 29,000 employees working hard every day for our kids. They have been on the front lines of this pandemic, helping our children stay on track, even as this disease has disrupted almost everything in their lives. It is absolutely vital that we bring these important tools for safe schools to them as well. Making sure that our educators and staff have rapid tests, masks, and vaccines will keep everyone in schools stay safe and healthy.

But we must also finish the job and build back better, which will include billions for universal pre-K, which boosts our education system, and reinstate the child tax credit, which will lift children out of poverty.

I am proud of the work of this Congress, and I am proud of the critical investments to my district, in our schools, in Texas, and across the country.

We have made incredible progress this past year to help our educators, our students, and our communities

bounce back from COVID-19. I am thankful for the hard work of President Biden and my colleagues in the House and the Senate. Thanks to our collective efforts, students, teachers, and faculty will have safe schools, clean water, and a brighter future.

CONGRATULATING MALCOLM MEYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, a devoted father and husband, a selfless leader, and a legend in Louisiana real estate law.

Malcolm Meyer graduated magna cum laude from Tulane University, graduated from Tulane Law School, and then served 4 years as a JAG officer in the United States Navy.

Malcolm Meyer practiced law over 30 years, taught and mentored students as an adjunct professor, and he became a leading expert in his field, literally writing the book on real estate transaction law in Louisiana, the widely read and referenced "Malcolm's Manual on Louisiana Real Estate."

Malcolm has used his vast knowledge and expertise not only to better his colleagues and his profession, but to help the disadvantaged in his community. Most notably, following the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, Malcolm spent countless hours of pro bono work protecting the property and belongings of the most vulnerable in his State.

He has been recognized over the years for his outstanding volunteer service by organizations, including Louisiana Appleseed Foundation, Louisiana Land Title Association, and the prestigious George Herbert Walker Bush's Points of Light.

On December 29, Malcolm was named the recipient of the 2021 Louisiana Land Title Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Strong countries and vibrant communities, Mr. Speaker, are not established merely because of good laws but because of good men whose hearts are devoted to the sum of all laws: Love thy neighbor as thyself.

That is Malcolm Meyer to his core, and I know that unequivocally, Mr. Speaker, because he is my father-in-law. I am so proud of him, and I want to congratulate Big Mouse and send our best. We love Big Mouse, and it is a well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING DON MCBEATH

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding west Texan, a great partner in delivering rural healthcare solutions, and a dear friend, Don McBeath.

Don is retiring from his role as director of government relations for the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, what we refer to as TORCH, where he has been a champion for over 150 rural hospitals since 2007.

Prior to his time with TORCH, Don blazed the trail in telehealth by serv-

ing as the director of telemedicine and rural health at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Before that, he served as a judge and several years in the DA's office.

I wish Don and Beverly all the best as they move into the next chapter of their lives. I thank Don for his friendship and his tremendous contributions to rural west Texas.

CONGRATULATING CASH PATTEN AND BERKLEY WATERS

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, rodeo is not just a sport; it is a way of life and a heritage in the Lone Star State. I am pleased to see this time-honored tradition is being kept alive by the next generation of Texans.

I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of two outstanding west Texans, 9-year-old Berkley Waters of Lubbock and 12-year-old Cash Patten of New Home. Berkley and Cash, two great cowboy names, recently competed in the barrel racing finals in the Junior World Finals rodeo in Las Vegas.

West Texans are known for being hardworking, tough, and undeterred. Cash and Berkley have these qualities, Mr. Speaker, in spades. Their commitment to these virtues and their craft has allowed them to perform at the highest level and on the biggest stage in their sport.

I want to congratulate Berkley and Cash for all their hard work and what they have been able to accomplish at a young age.

God bless America and go west Texas.

HONORING SENATOR HARRY REID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nevada's longest-serving Senator, Harry Reid, who passed away on December 28, with his beloved children: Lana, Key, Josh, Leif, and Rory; and his devoted wife of 62 years, Landra, by his side. My condolences and prayers are with them all and with the countless people whose lives he has changed, his friends, staff, and all of those in the great State of Nevada.

This tribute could be about Senator Reid being the most consequential Senate majority leader in modern history. It could also be about how Senator Reid was the true embodiment of what it meant to be battle born, a boxer as a young man who never backed down from a good fight for the least among us.

It could be about the story of his American Dream, rising out of severe poverty in Searchlight, Nevada; hitchhiking 40 miles to school; working as a Capitol Police Officer to put himself through law school, to becoming one of the most powerful political leaders of our time.

It could also be about his legislative accomplishments, such as the Affordable Care Act, which gave millions of

Americans access to affordable healthcare, saving our economy during the Great Recession, taking on Wall Street, or making sure that Nevada would not become the Nation's nuclear waste dumping ground.

However, I want to focus on Senator Reid's role in advancing women in politics.

In Nevada, Senator Reid is known for his quiet yet sometimes curt demeanor; his incredible, strategic mind; and his work ethic beyond compare.

He built a team, known as Team Reid, that has roots throughout this Capitol, throughout Nevada, and throughout this country, which will have an impact long beyond his life.

There is no doubt that Senator Reid was a visionary when it came to politics. His vision in making sure that women had a runway into politics has left an indelible mark.

Within his own legendary team, women occupied the most senior posts. At the same time, Senator Reid recruited and mentored women up and down the ballot. It is no surprise, therefore, that Nevada became the first State to have a woman-majority State legislature. We have a woman-majority supreme court, as well as a woman-majority congressional delegation, with two female Senators, CORTEZ MASTO and ROSEN.

Harry Reid's devotion to Landra is legendary. Perhaps it was her enormous role in his life and his utter respect for her as a partner that seeded his unspoken yet strong commitment to women's leadership. Maybe it was the role that his mother played, raising him out of extreme poverty in Searchlight, Nevada. Whatever the motivation, the results speak for themselves.

Growing up in Searchlight, Harry Reid was given a nickname, Pinky. I am not sure what it referred to, and I actually don't think he particularly liked it. But as Senator Reid lies in state in our Nation's Capitol this week, this woman, who benefited from his mentorship and guidance, will believe that perhaps that nickname was a premonition of his role in changing the face of leadership in Nevada and this country.

We all know that Senator Reid was infamous for not saying goodbye. I myself was the recipient of that dial tone on many occasions. But those occasions were because he never failed to pick up the phone when I called for advice. I will miss those phone calls, but I will take this opportunity to say goodbye to a man who showed how to fight for the little guy; a man who could take a punch and outwork anyone; a man who led through example of compassion and strength.

I say goodbye to Senator Reid and thank him.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize National Human Trafficking Day. This issue, the issue of human trafficking, is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It is an American issue. It is a human issue.

That is why today I am proud to wear blue to show my support to all those fighting this terrible scourge and also to the victims of trafficking, to stand in solidarity as we fight for resources and support and also to educate fellow Members and citizens about this terrible scourge. We need to be loud.

Trafficking occurs in every State, in every district, and in every city, which is why every single Member here today needs to come together as we fight this modern-day slavery.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we work to strengthen resources for those on the front lines and continue to expose the awful scourge of modern-day slavery that we know as trafficking.

HONORING CORPORAL DUANE DEWEY

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable American hero. Corporal Duane Dewey of the United States Marine Corps embodied what it meant to be an American soldier and patriot.

A Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient, Corporal Dewey displayed courageous and meritorious actions during his service in the Korean war. Already riddled from shrapnel from a grenade, Corporal Dewey used his own body as a human shield and covered a grenade as it exploded. In doing so, he protected his fellow soldiers and showed true sacrifice in service. Miraculously, he survived.

In 1953, President Eisenhower presented Corporal Dewey with the Medal of Honor and described his remarkable service as "indomitable courage, outstanding initiative, and valiant efforts on behalf of others in the face of almost certain death reflect the highest credit upon Corporal Dewey."

Now, after 26 years serving in the Marine Corps Corporal Dewey retired and spent many winter seasons in my home county of Alachua. He was well known in the veteran community and throughout Florida for his incredible bravery during battle and as an example of giving one's all for their Nation, no questions asked.

Mr. Dewey recently passed away after a long and distinguished life of service. His life will be remembered through the many people who had the honor of meeting and knowing Corporal Dewey and through the Duane E. Dewey AMVETS Post 1988 of Baldwin, where many of his service records are on display.

We will continue to thank today but also every day the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, like Corporal Dewey, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

God bless Corporal Dewey. May he rest easy.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING JEB SMITH

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the newest president of the Florida Farm Bureau, Mr. Jeb Smith. Before his election to this position, Mr. Smith served on the State board of the Florida Farm Bureau and on the Putnam-St. Johns County Farm Bureau board of directors.

Jeb's family has over a century of experience farming in Florida. Their current cattle, hay, and sod operation in St. Johns County have been going strong for decades, and their operation will be recognized next year as a Century Pioneer Family Farm.

Mr. Smith started as a volunteer leader with the Florida Farm Bureau and, in the following decades, has been recognized as the Florida Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farmer, among many other accolades.

In addition to serving as the bureau's president, Jeb is also a St. Johns County commissioner and a board member of the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch. He also founded the God's Way Baptist Church in Hastings and has served as its pastor.

I am sure that his wife of 27 years, Wendy, and his four children are proud of his accomplishments.

Congratulations to my friend, President Smith, on his election. I wish him the best as he leads the Florida Farm Bureau and the incredible people who continue to champion our farmers, ranchers, and producers in Florida. We wish Jeb the very best of luck and offer him our congratulations.

PASSING VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION IS ONLY OPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Formulated by the people of the United States to create a more perfect union—we know these words. They are the core of our being. Our Nation of over 300 million people embraces diversity and individualism, has birthed a citizenry that speaks many languages, holds a plethora of deep religious beliefs, or none, and practices customs and traditions originating on distant shores.

We are unique. African Americans, in particular, have a unique history embedded in slavery, discrimination, and the denial of our rights, but voting rights have been our refuge.

Today I rise and say there is no option other than passing the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement